REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and claims 6-25 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the language in claims 1 and 2, and to place claims 6-25 in proper dependent form. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to because legends were required for the abbreviations used in the figures. Corrected drawings are attached. In particular, replacement sheets for Figs. 1-4 are provided with the addition of legends as required. Annotated sheets are attached with the added material enclosed in a red line box. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by VanDervort (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,191). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over VanDervort in view of Chiu (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,689). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a method of handling ATM traffic comprising streams of packets of AAL5 type composed of ATM cells, at a network node at VP-layer. The method comprises providing a database, monitoring each of said cells incoming the node and determining at least VC-layer and VP-layer parameters of a cell being monitored, processing information on the determined parameters, registering the processed information concerning each of said cells in the database to form statistical data with respect to at least combinations of the VC-layer and VP-

layer parameters of the packets being handled at the node, so as to make the network node, handling the ATM traffic at VP-layer, aware about nature and behavior of various AAL5 streams in a particular VP connection, analyzing information registered in the database and making a decision on possible discard of the cell being monitored by taking into account frequency of appearance of a combination of its VC-layer and VP-layer parameters in the database. This is not taught, disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Though VanDervort describes collecting statistical information about cells of ATM traffic, it does not describe/suggest:

a) obtaining, at the VP (Virtual Path) layer, statistic information about nature and behavior of different ATM traffic streams of VC (Virtual Channel) layer;

b) making discard decisions using the statistic information collected at the VP layer; and

c) specifically focusing on VP Connections which carry VC Connections streams of AAL5 packets.

Indeed, VanDervort describes an instrument for collecting statistics with respect to each virtual connection being monitored. For example, VanDervort counts how many cells were received with CLP bit =0 or =1 with respect to a particular VC connection, how many cells are identified as being OAM cells, etc. – see column 15, lines 15-67, Table 1 of VanDervort.

This is not what Applicant does in his application. The first and most important difference (feature a above) is that the Applicant's invention's purpose is not statistics per a VCC (Virtual Channel layer connection) but statistics per virtual path (VP) connection, *i.e.*, at the VP layer at which the ATM network node operates. This means that the method allows

defining/selecting a particular VP connection, with a specific VPI (VP index) value, and dynamically monitoring frequency of ATM cells from all VCCs carried in the given VPC (Virtual Path connection). *The support for the amendment is found in the original specification, for example, on page 4, lines 5-12; on page 5 lines 18-21 (original claim 2), on page 6 lines 1-3 (which point out that an ATM interface of the node operates at the VP layer since it handles a plurality of Virtual Paths).*

The second important difference (feature b above) is based on the first difference. While VanDervort just counts various patterns per VC connection, Applicant's method compares (analyzes, judges about) the number of cells incoming to the node in each VC connection embedded in a particular referred VP connection. This is because the purpose of Applicant's invention is not just to count the cells/pattern/events per-se but to decide which stream (VCC) of cells may be discarded next. *The support for the amendment is found in the original description, for example, page 11 line15 through page 12, line 22, and especially on page 12 lines 11 to 22. It is further supported by original claims 17 and 18.*

The third difference (feature c above) was originally claimed in Applicant's Claim 1, but now it is further emphasized in the proposed amendment. *The support is found on page 4, lines 6-12 of the original description.*

The amended claims 1 and 2 are therefore considered novel and non-obvious over VanDervort. Claims 3 and 4 are deemed to be patentable at least due to being dependent from the amended Claim 1. The remaining dependent claims 5-25 in the set of amended claims comprise additional features of the invention; they are considered patentable at least due to being dependent from the amended Claim 1. Specific novel features disclosed in the amended claims

6-25 (not examined at the previous round of prosecution) are neither described nor suggested in the prior art references mentioned by the Examiner.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 are patentable over the prior art of record whether taken alone or in combination as proposed in the Office Action.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to the effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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10
VCC1
PACKET
VCC2
PACKET
VCC3
PACKET
20
VPC1
VPC2
VPCK
30
40
(VPC 1
VCC 2)
VCC - Virtual Channel Connection
VPC - Virtual Path Connection

FIG.1

VCC - Virtual Channel Connection
VPC - Virtual Path Connection
VCI - Virtual Channel Index
VPI - Virtual Path Index
IF - Interface
PD - Partial Discard
FD - Full Discard

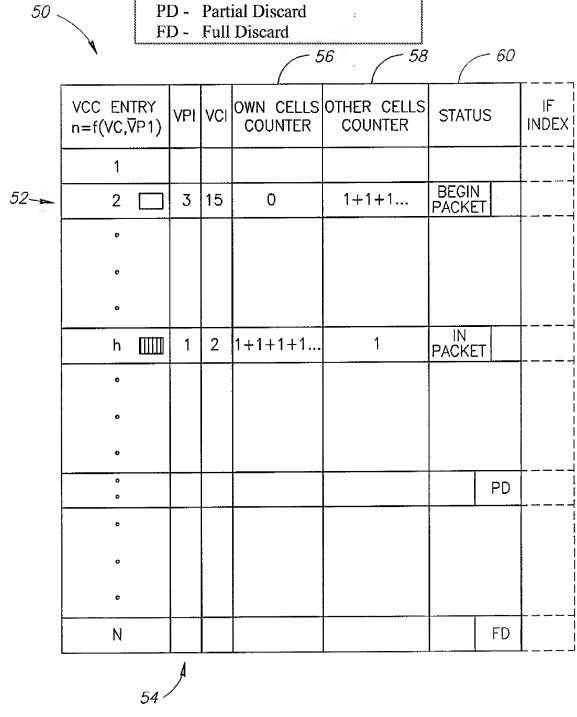


FIG.2

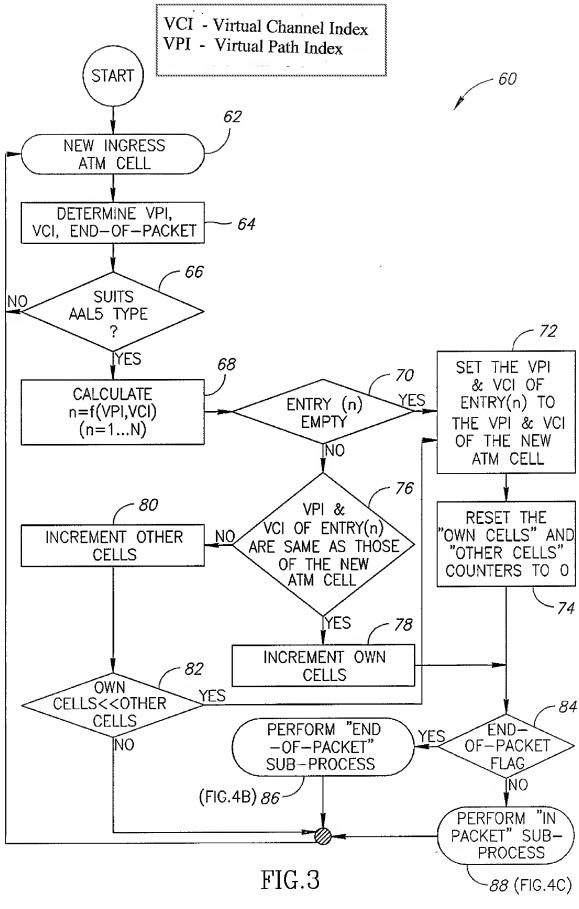
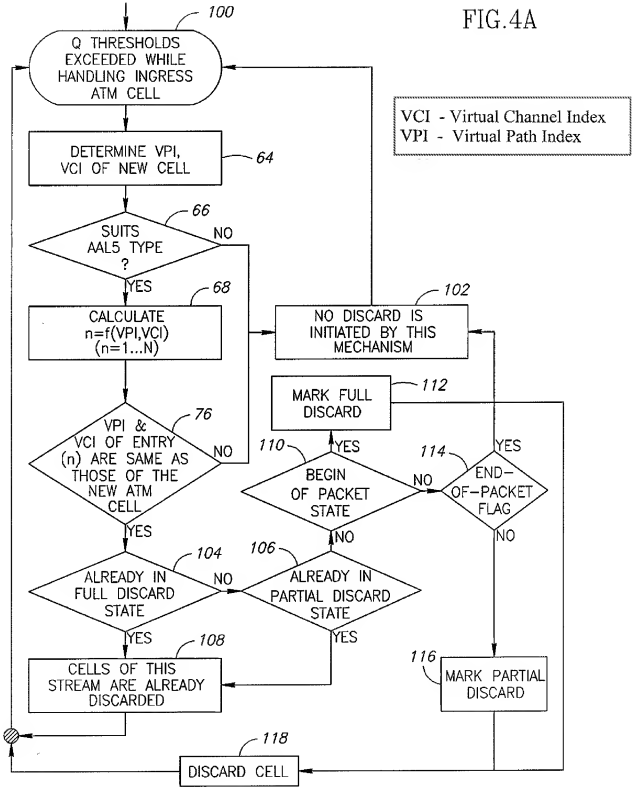

VCI - Virtual Channel Index
VPI - Virtual Path Index
START
60
62
NEW INGRESS ATM CELL
DETERMINE VPI, VCI, END-OF-PACKET
64
66
NO
SUITS AAL5 TYPE ?
YES
68
CALCULATE n=f(VPI,VCI) (n=1...N)
70
ENTRY (n) EMPTY
YES
NO
72
SET THE VPI & VCI OF ENTRY(n) TO THE VPI & VCI OF THE NEW ATM CELL
76
VPI & VCI OF ENTRY(n) ARE SAME AS THOSE OF THE NEW ATM CELL
NO
80
INCREMENT OTHER CELLS
YES
78
INCREMENT OWN CELLS
RESET THE "OWN CELLS" AND "OTHER CELLS" COUNTERS TO 0
74
82
OWN CELLS<<OTHER CELLS
YES
NO
84
END-OF-PACKET FLAG
YES
NO
PERFORM "END-OF-PACKET" SUB-PROCESS
(FIG.4B) 86
PERFORM "IN PACKET" SUB-PROCESS
88 (FIG.4C)

FIG.3

FIG.4A


100
Q THRESHOLDS EXCEEDED WHILE HANDLING INGRESS ATM CELL
VCI - Virtual Channel Index
VPI - Virtual Path Index
DETERMINE VPI, VCI OF NEW CELL
64
66
SUITS AAL5 TYPE ?
NO
YES
68
CALCULATE n=f(VPI,VCI) (n=1...N)
102
NO DISCARD IS INITIATED BY THIS MECHANISM
112
MARK FULL DISCARD
76
VPI & VCI OF ENTRY (n) ARE SAME AS THOSE OF THE NEW ATM CELL
NO
YES
110
BEGIN OF PACKET STATE
YES
NO
114
END-OF-PACKET FLAG
YES
NO
104
ALREADY IN FULL DISCARD STATE
NO
YES
106
ALREADY IN PARTIAL DISCARD STATE
YES
NO
108
CELLS OF THIS STREAM ARE ALREADY DISCARDED
116
MARK PARTIAL DISCARD
118
DISCARD CELL

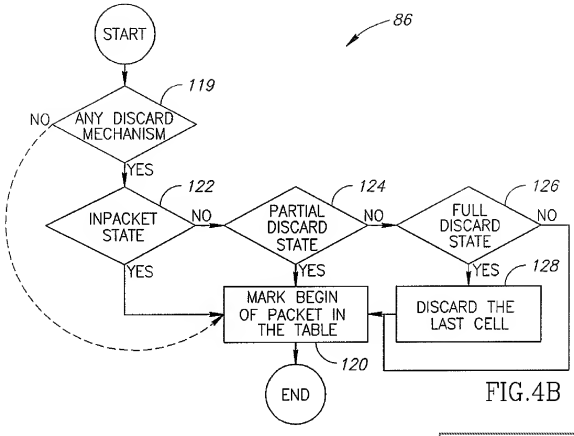

86
START
119
ANY DISCARD MECHANISM
NO
YES
122
INPACKET STATE
NO
YES
124
PARTIAL DISCARD STATE
NO
YES
126
FULL DISCARD STATE
NO
YES
128
MARK BEGIN OF PACKET IN THE TABLE
DISCARD THE LAST CELL
120
END

FIG.4B

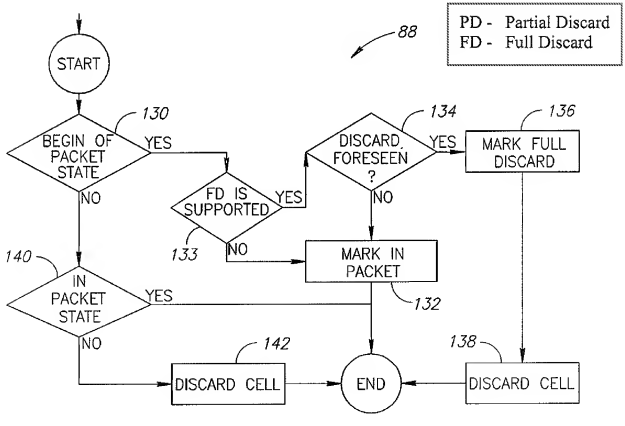

88
PD - Partial Discard
FD - Full Discard
START
130
BEGIN OF PACKET STATE
YES
NO
FD IS SUPPORTED
YES
133
NO
134
DISCARD FORESEEN ?
YES
NO
136
MARK FULL DISCARD
MARK IN PACKET
132
140
IN PACKET STATE
YES
NO
142
DISCARD CELL
END
138
DISCARD CELL

FIG.4C